

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 48, 51, and 55. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1–45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an information storage system comprising: positioning ~~the a~~ read head to a first position over a loading track where no user data is stored proximate a storage media;

comparing a value of ~~an a~~ first evaluation parameter to a first predetermined level; initiating a head cleaning when the first evaluation parameter exceeds the first predetermined level, moving the read head to a cleaning position and then back to the first position; and

when the value of the first evaluation parameter does not exceed the first predetermined level, positioning the read head to a second position over a reserved track, when the evaluation parameter does not exceed the predetermined level and comparing a value of a second evaluation parameter to a second predetermined level; and

when the value of the second evaluation parameter exceeds the second predetermined level, moving the read head to a park position and generating an error signal.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, further comprising repositioning the read head to the first position after head cleaning and redetecting the value of the first evaluation parameter after moving the read head back to the first position.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the evaluation parameter is a position error signal.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the evaluation parameter is fly height.

51. (Canceled).

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~54~~⁴⁶, further comprising moving the read head for normal operation when the value of the second evaluation parameter does not exceed the second predetermined level.

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~54~~⁴⁶, wherein the second evaluation parameter is the soft error rate.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein said reserved track includes a radially inner portion of a disk.

55. (Canceled)

56. (New) A method of operating an information storage system comprising:
moving a read head from a park position to a loading track of a removable magnetic disk;
evaluating a first parameter;
when the first parameter is evaluated at an abnormal level, moving the read head to a cleaning position and then back to the loading track;
when the first parameter is evaluated at a normal level, moving the read head to a reserved track of the removable magnetic disk and evaluating a second parameter; and
when the second parameter is evaluated above a predetermined threshold, moving the read head to the park position and generating an error condition.

57. (New) A method of operating an information storage system comprising:
moving a read head from a park position to a loading track on a radially outer portion of a removable magnetic disk, the removable magnetic disk disposed within a cartridge;
evaluating at least two parameters including a position error signal, a servo automatic gain control, and information from a finite impulse response filter;
when at least one of the at least two parameters is evaluated at an abnormal level, moving the read head to a cleaning position and then back to the loading track;
when the at least two parameters are evaluated at a normal level, moving the read head to a reserved track on a radially inner portion of the removable magnetic disk and calculating a soft error rate; and

when the calculated soft error rate is above a predetermined threshold, moving the read head to the park position and generating an error condition.